

HOLOCAUST MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS: COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

Friday, December 4, 2015

Was Hitler Responsible for the Holocaust?

Hitler did not make the Holocaust happen by himself. In addition to the SS, German government, military, and Nazi Party officials who planned and implemented policies aimed at persecuting and murdering the European Jews, many “ordinary” people—civil servants, doctors, lawyers, judges, soldiers, and railroad workers—played a role in the Holocaust.

Some Were Workers: Local Officials Help to Track Jews

N° 32474

N° du dossier S. P.
N° van het dossier V. O.

Nom **MARSRAWA**
Naam

Prénoms **Szajda**
Voornamen

Né à **Varsovie**
geboren te

Le **5 fév 1879**
Den

Nationalité **polonoise**
Nationaliteit

Signature du titulaire - handtekening
Szajda

20.00
20.00
80F
80F

1M 041479
1M 041504

N° 32474

État civil **veuve Szmulkiewicz**
Burgerlijke stand

Profession **Sans**
Beroep

Résidence précédente :
Vorige verblijfplaats : **Anvers**

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rue **Em. Feron**, n° **56**
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Délivrée à Saint-Gilles-lez-Bruxelles,
Afgeleverd te Sint-Gillis-op-Brussel

le **96 DEC**
den

Cette carte est valable jusqu'au
Deze kaart is geldig tot **13 décembre 1943**

L'Officier de l'État civil (ou son délégué),
Den Ambtenaar van den Burgerlijken Stand
(of zijn gedelegeerde),
Blom

Caisse de Retraite, N° du Compte
Lijfrentkas, N° der Rekening

RÉSIDENCES SUCCESSIVES -- ACHTEREENVOLGENDE VERBLIJFPLAATSEN	Vol. Boek, Blad	DATE DATUM	N° N°	RUE. - STRAAT.
Forest Paul-Jules Van Haden	75/24	23/3/42	187	

(suite au verso. — Vervolg aan keerzijde.)

Identification card with Juif - Jood (Jew in French and Flemish) stamped in red ink, issued by Belgian officials in compliance with German decrees. Belgium, 1943

--US Holocaust Memorial Museum Collection, gift of Charlotte Sz wajcer

Some Were Workers



Stefan Kucharek drove trains full of Jews to the Treblinka killing center. Kucharek drove these transports regularly for almost a year.

--USHMM Collection, Witnesses, Collaborators, and Perpetrators

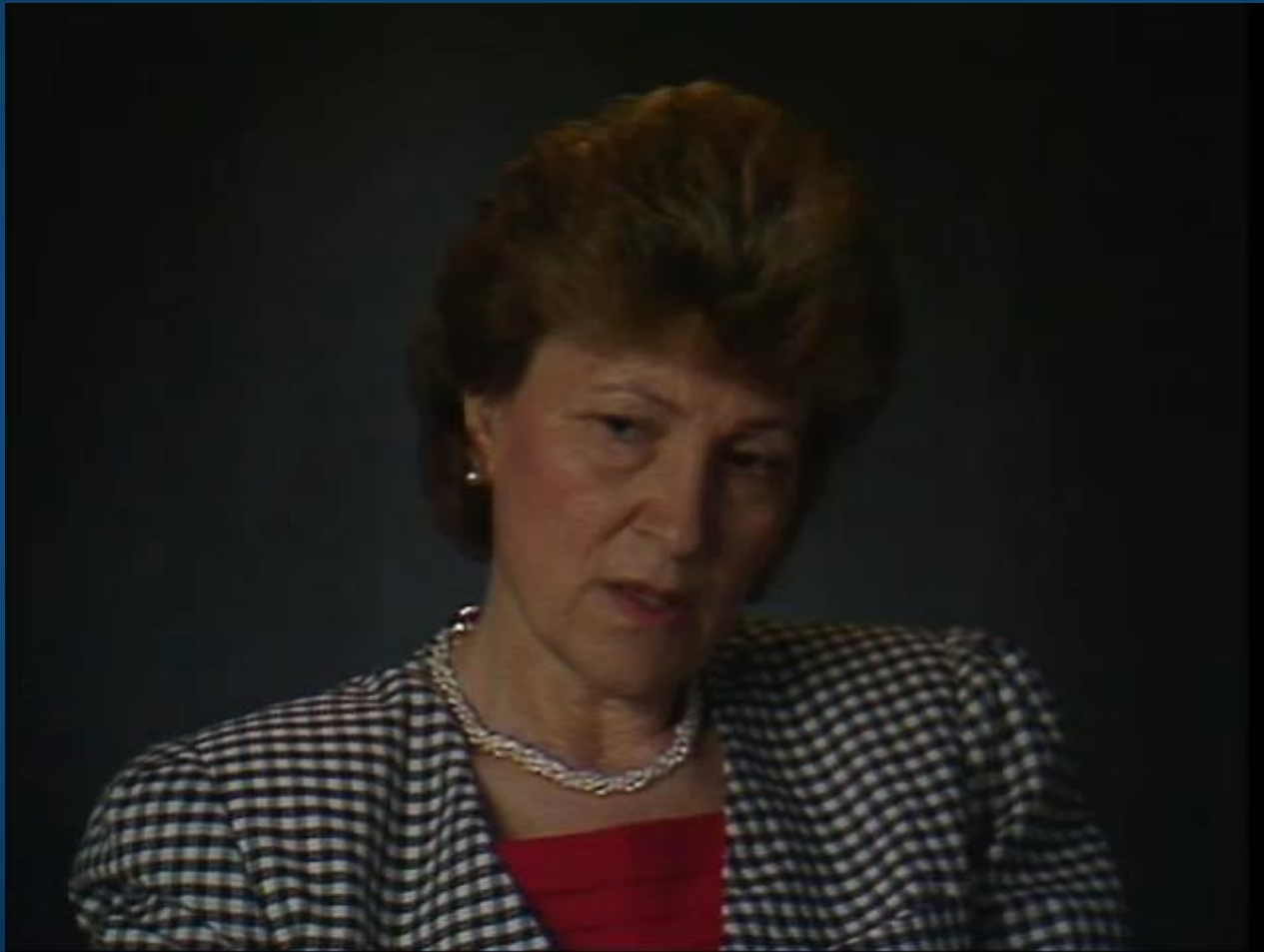
Some Were Judges



Members of the Berlin criminal court give the Nazi salute on October 1, 1936, the day that judges were required to wear the Nazi eagle-and-swastika emblem.

--USHMM

Some Were Teachers: Turned Away at the Classroom Door



Some Were Doctors



Dr. Carl Clauberg (far left) conducted cruel experiments at Auschwitz, mostly on Jewish prisoners in 1943–44

—US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Panstwowe Muzeum Auschwitz-Birkenau w Oswiecimiu

Some Were Religious Leaders:



Roman Catholic clerics give the Nazi salute at a Catholic youth rally in the Neukölln stadium. Berlin, Germany, August 20, 1933

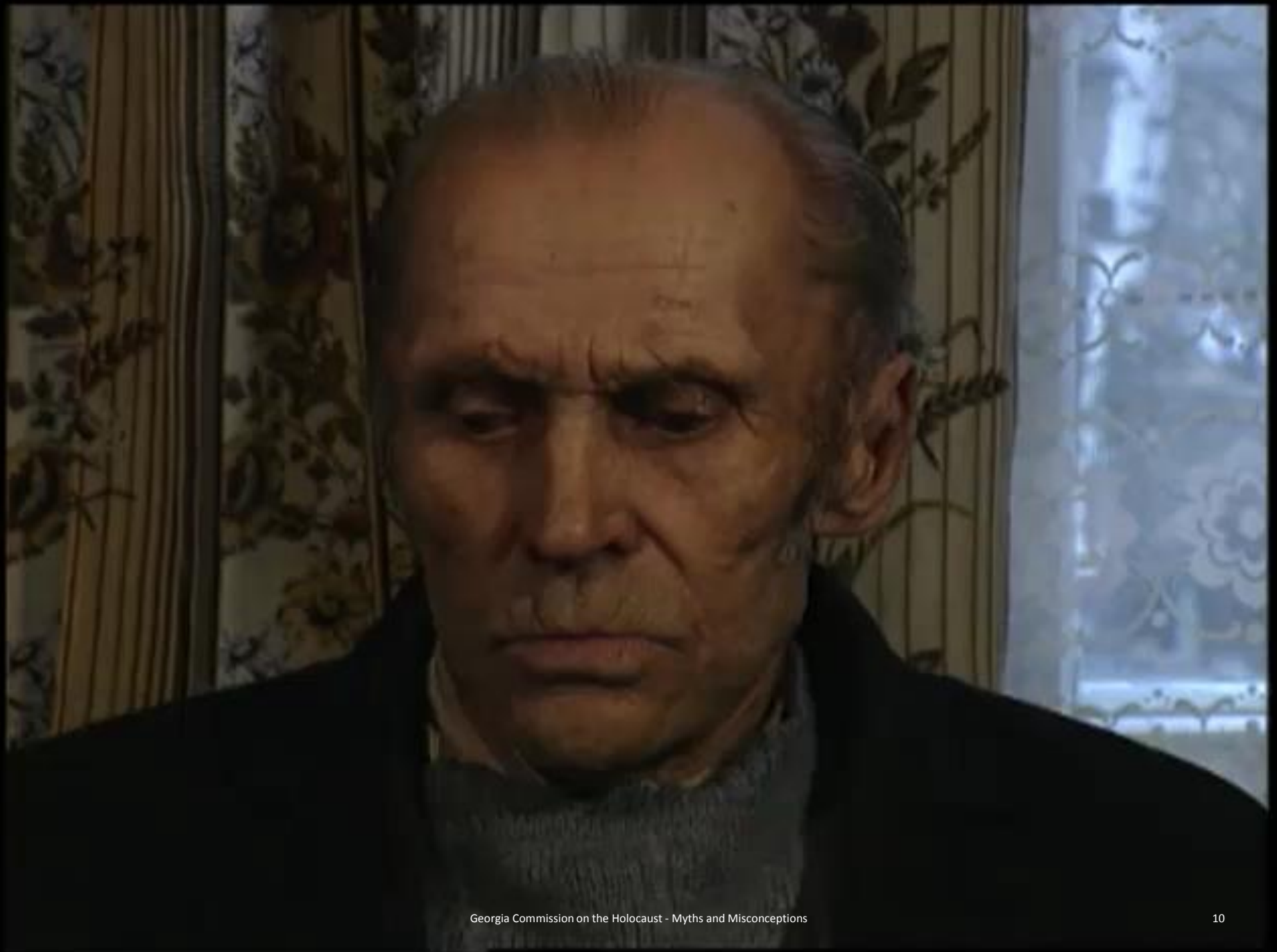
--Bildarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz

Some Were Policemen: Local Participation in SS and Police Shootings



Ukrainian auxiliary police, marked by white armbands, prepare to kill Jewish women under the supervision of German army personnel. To carry out these shooting operations in hundreds of communities, Germans relied on the help of tens of thousands of ethnic German and non-German “auxiliary police.”

--Hungarian National Museum Historical Photo Department Georgia Commission on the Holocaust - Myths and Misconceptions



Why Didn't the Jews Leave?

German Jews were patriotic citizens. More than 10,000 died fighting for Germany in World War I, and others received medals for their valor and service. Many Jewish German families had lived in Germany for centuries.

From 1933–39, discriminatory laws targeting Jews in Germany were passed incrementally. Up until Kristallnacht in 1938, many Jews in Germany hoped for positive change in German politics. Before World War II, few could imagine or predict killing squads and killing centers.

December 19, 1938

Klaus Langer

Salvaged Pages, p. 24



Klaus (later Jacob) Langer was born on April 12, 1924, in the city of Gleiwitz in Upper Silesia, which at that time was part of Germany. After Kristallnacht the Langer family desperately attempted to emigrate from Germany, but with each attempt they were met with internal and external obstacles. Klaus escaped Germany on September 2, 1939, eventually settling in Palestine. His parents and grandmother perished in the Holocaust.

The Immigration Act of 1924

was a United States federal law limiting the annual number of immigrants who could be admitted from any country to 2% of the number of people from that country already living in the United States in 1890, down from the 3% cap set by the Immigration Restriction Act of 1921. The law was primarily aimed at further restricting immigration of Southern Europeans and Eastern Europeans.

The White Paper of 1939

was issued in response to the 1936-1939 Arab Revolt. Great Britain limited Jewish immigration to Palestine at 75,000 for 5 years, and ruled that further immigration was to be determined by the Arab majority. This greatly upset Zionists because of the increasing persecution of Jews in Europe at the onset of World War II, particularly in Germany.

Documents Required to Obtain a U.S. Visa

- Five copies of the visa application
- Two copies of the applicant's birth certificate
- Quota number (establishing the applicant's place on the waiting list)

Two sponsors:

- Close relatives of the prospective immigrant were preferred
- The sponsors were required to be US citizens or to have permanent resident status, and they were required to have completed and notarized six copies of an Affidavit of Support and Sponsorship

Supporting documents:

- Certified copy of most recent federal tax return
- Affidavit from a bank regarding applicant's accounts
- Affidavit from any other responsible person regarding other assets (affidavit from sponsor's employer or statement of commercial rating)

Certificate of Good Conduct from German Police authorities, including two copies of each:

- Police dossier
- Prison record
- Military record
- Other government records about individual

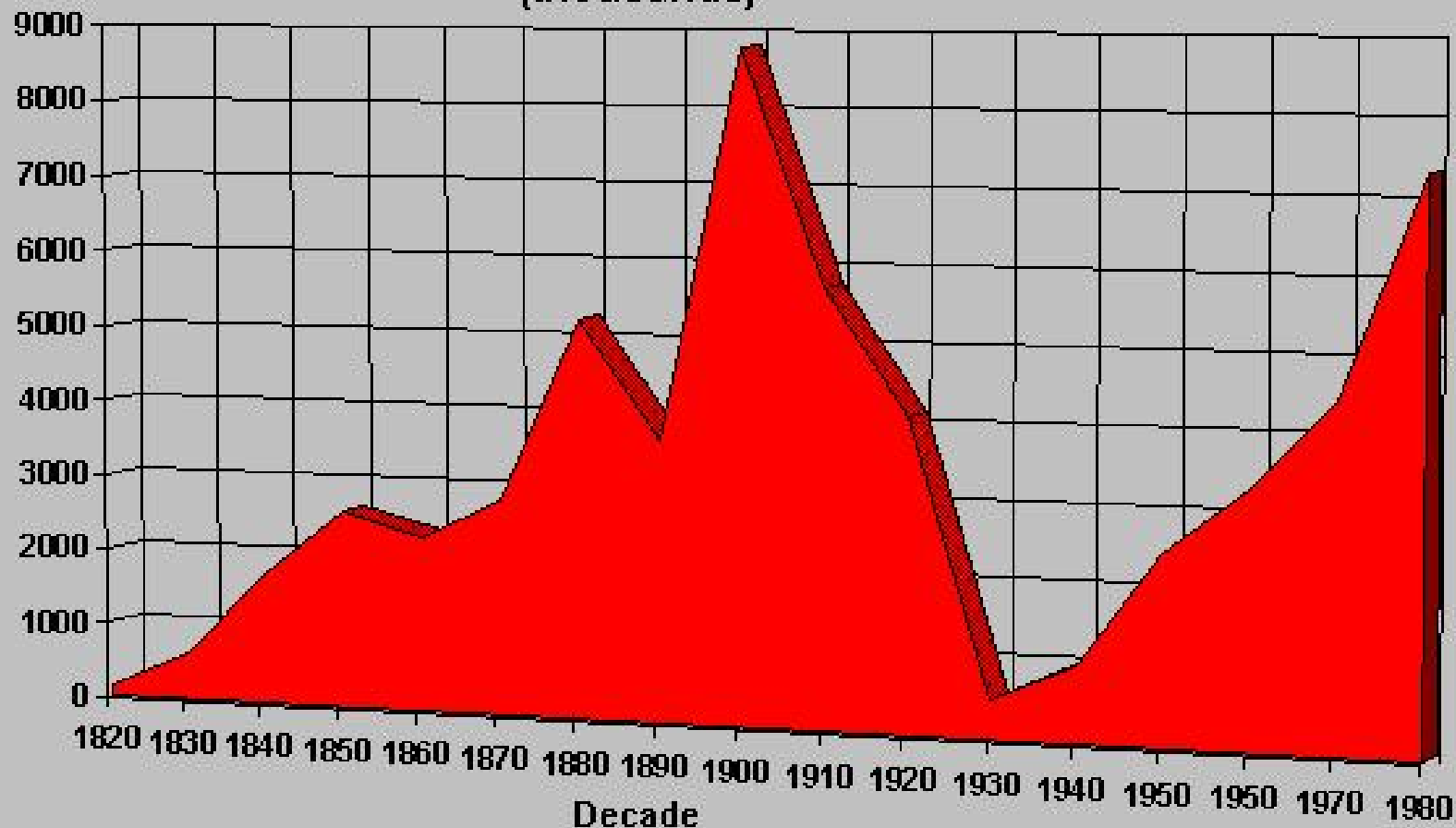
Affidavits of Good Conduct (after September 1940) from several responsible disinterested persons

Physical examination at US consulate

Proof of permission to leave Germany (imposed September 30, 1939)

Proof that prospective immigrant had booked passage to the Western hemisphere (imposed September 1939)

Number of Immigrants to the U.S. Per Decade: 1820-1990 (thousands)



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1993.

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Why Didn't the Jews Resist?

Jews carried out acts of resistance in every German-occupied country and in the territory of Germany's Axis partners. Against impossible odds, they resisted in ghettos, concentration camps, and killing centers. There were many factors that made resistance difficult, however, including a lack of weapons and resources, deception, fear, and the overwhelming power of the Germans and their collaborators.



Jewish sniper takes position in the Warsaw Ghetto during the Uprising
--Jewish Virtual Library



Jewish armed resistance during the Holocaust
--jewishpartisans.org



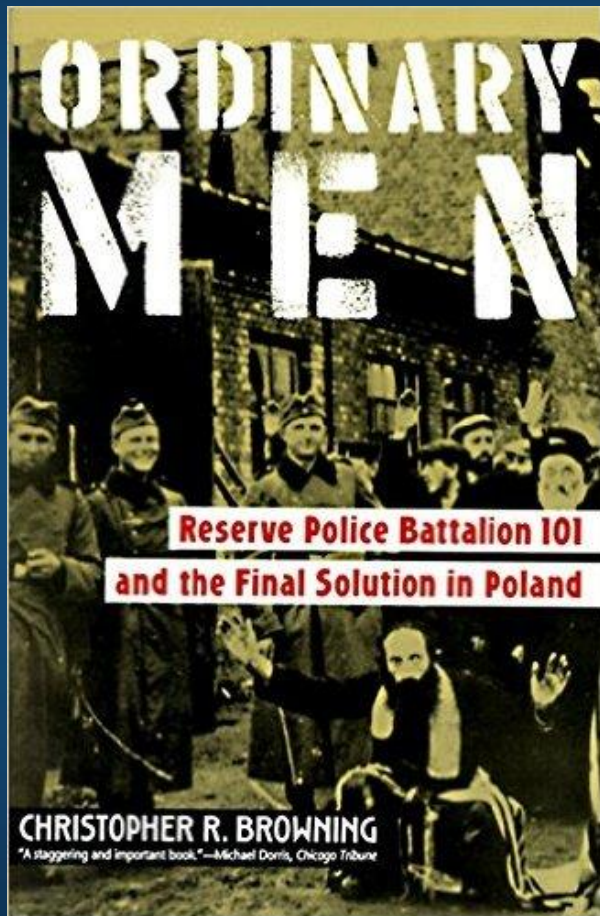
Jewish parachutist Hannah Szenes on her first day in Palestine. Haifa, Palestine, September 19, 1939.

— Beit Hannah Szenes

Hannah Szenes was a Special Operations Executive paratrooper. She was one of 37 Jews from Mandatory Palestine parachuted by the British Army into Yugoslavia during the Second World War to assist in the rescue of Hungarian Jews about to be deported to the German death camp at Auschwitz.

Szenes was arrested at the Hungarian border, then imprisoned and tortured, but refused to reveal details of her mission. She was eventually tried and executed by firing squad. She is regarded as a national hero in Israel.

What Happened If You Disobeyed An Order To Participate In An Atrocity?



Germans who refused to participate in atrocities were generally not punished. They could request other duties, such as guard duty or crowd control. There is no reliable evidence that German soldiers or police officials were killed for refusing to kill civilians. Non-Germans serving as auxiliaries and refusing to carry out direct orders to kill could be subject to discipline, dismissal, imprisonment, or even death.

Was Hitler Jewish?

Rumors about Hitler's ancestry were circulated by political opponents as a way of discrediting Hitler's leadership of an antisemitic party. The rumors are derived from the fact that the identity of Hitler's paternal grandfather remains unknown. There is no reliable evidence to suggest that the unknown grandfather was Jewish.



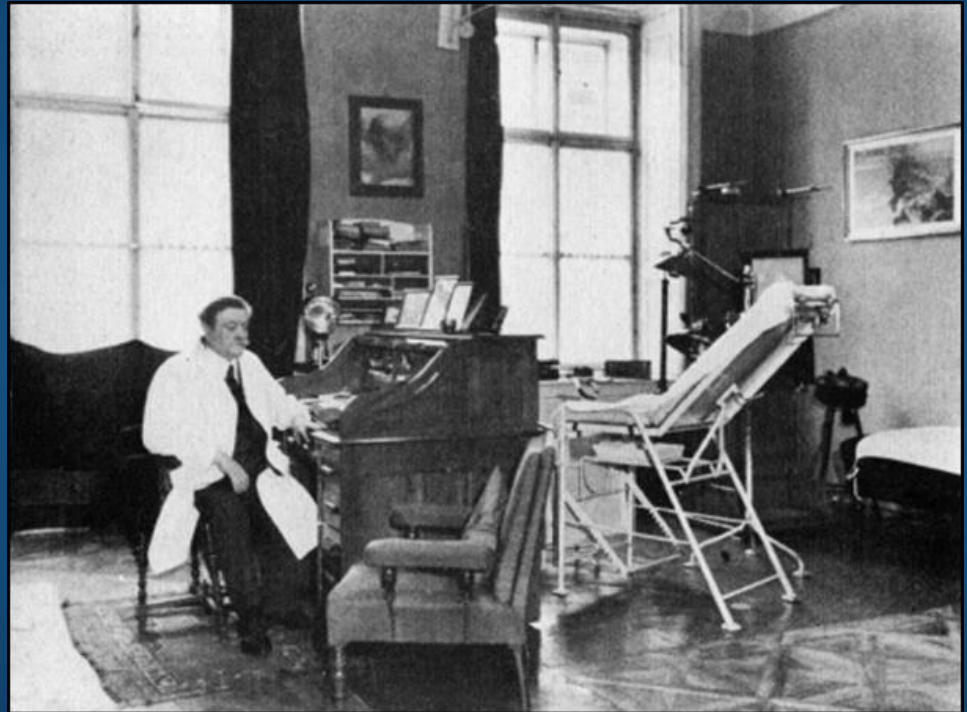
What percentage of Germany's Population was Jewish?

According to the census of June 16, 1933, the Jewish population of Germany, was approximately 505,000 people out of a total of 67 million, somewhat less than 0.75 percent.



Did a Jewish Doctor Mistreat Adolf Hitler's Mother?

Some claim that Hitler's hatred of the Jews stemmed from the fact that Dr. Eduard Bloch, his family's Jewish physician in Linz, Austria, bungled Klara Hitler's treatment, causing her to die a prolonged and painful death from breast cancer in December 1907. However, according to Bloch's 1943 testimony to the Office of Strategic Services in the United States, Hitler considered Bloch to have treated her well.



Dr. Bloch in his operatory, 1938
--German Federal Archive

Did the Nazis Manufacture Soap from Human Fat?

Leading Holocaust scholars disavow the Nazi manufacture of soap. Evidence that would prove it conclusively – such as shipping bills, physical evidence from a manufacturing plant, or receipts for economic transactions – has never been found. When analyzed, bars of soap said to be made of human remains turned up no evidence of human DNA.



Did King Christian X Of Denmark Wear A Jewish Star Badge?

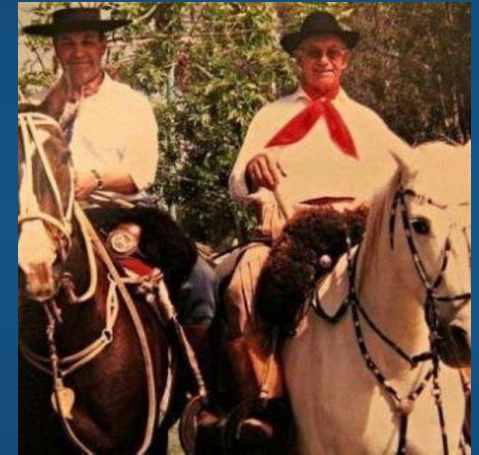
This never happened, despite the stories about the king's open support of his Jewish subjects that circulated throughout Europe, one of which has him threatening to wear a badge if such an order were given. However, the Germans never required Danish Jews to wear badges, possibly because they realized how much resistance this order would arouse.

As a gesture of solidarity with his subjects, the king continued his daily horseback rides through Copenhagen, alone and unprotected, and these rides became a popular protest as scores of Danes turned out to escort him.



Are Jews a Race?

Jews are not a race. They are adherents of a religion – Judaism – around which a culture has evolved based on laws, rituals and customs that can vary from place to place because the Jews live in many parts of the world. Jews are also a “people,” with a national/ethnic identity based on a shared history and historical homeland – Israel – that extends from ancient times to the present.



How Did Adolf Hitler Die?



Hitler committed suicide. He shot himself (and may have taken poison at the same time) in his bunker in Berlin on April 30, 1945.

His body and that of Eva Braun, whom he married just hours before their suicides, were taken out of the bunker and put into a bomb crater. Gasoline was thrown over them and they were set on fire.

Why Didn't the Poles Help the Jews?

BEKANNTMACHUNG

Betrifft:
Beherbergung von geflüchteten Juden.

Es besteht Anlass zu folgendem Hinweis: Gemäss der 3. Verordnung über Aufenthaltsbeschränkungen im Generalgouvernement vom 15. 10. 1941 (VO. Bl. GG. S. 595) unterliegen Juden, die den jüdischen Wohnbezirk unbefugt verlassen, der Todesstrafe.

Gemäss der gleichen Vorschrift unterliegen Personen, die solchen Juden wissentlich Unterschlupf gewähren, Behöstigung verabfolgen oder Nahrungsmittel verkaufen, ebenfalls der Todesstrafe.

Die nichtjüdische Bevölkerung wird daher dringend gewarnt:

- 1) Juden Unterschlupf zu gewähren,
- 2) Juden Behöstigung zu verabfolgen,
- 3) Juden Nahrungsmittel zu verkaufen.

Częstochowa, den 24. 9. 42.

**Der Stadthauptmann
Dr. Franke**

OGŁOSZENIE

Dotyczy:
przetrzymania ukrywających się żydów.

Zachodzi potrzeba przypomnienia, że stosownie do § 3 Rozporządzenia o ograniczeniach pobytu w Gen. Gub. z dnia 15. X. 1941 roku (Dz. Rozp. dla GG. str. 595) żydzi, opuszczający dzielnicę żydowską bez zezwolenia, podlegają karze śmierci.

Według tego rozporządzenia, osobom, które takim żydom świadomie udzielają przytułku, dostarczają im jedzenia lub sprzedają artykuły żywnościowe, grozi również kara śmierci.

Niniejszym ostrzega się stanowczo ludność nieżydowską przed:

- 1) udzielaniem żydom przytułku,
- 2) dostarczaniem im jedzenia,
- 3) sprzedawaniem im artykułów żywnościowych.

Częstochowa, dnia 24. 9. 42.

NOTICE

Concerning: the Sheltering of Escaping Jews

There is a need for a reminder, that in accordance with paragraph 3 of the decree of October 15, 1941, on the Limitation of Residence in General Government (page 595 of the GG Register) Jews leaving the Jewish Quarter without permission will incur the death penalty.

According to this decree, those knowingly helping these Jews by providing shelter, supplying food, or selling them food are also subject to the death penalty.

This is a categorical warning to the non-Jewish population against:

- Providing shelter to Jews,
- Supplying them with Food
- Selling them Foodstuffs

Częstochowa 9/24/42

Der Stadthauptmann

Dr. Franke



Georgia Commission on the Holocaust - Myths and M

Were There Gas Chambers at Other Camps besides Auschwitz-Birkenau?

The Germans installed and used gas chambers at Majdanek concentration/ extermination camp in Lublin, Poland. There were also gas chambers at Belzec, Sobibor, and Treblinka – all killing centers except for the few Jews they saved to temporarily work in the camp itself. There were gas chambers at Dachau and in Mauthausen, Neuengamme, Sachsenhausen, Natzweiler, Stutthof, and Ravensbrück.

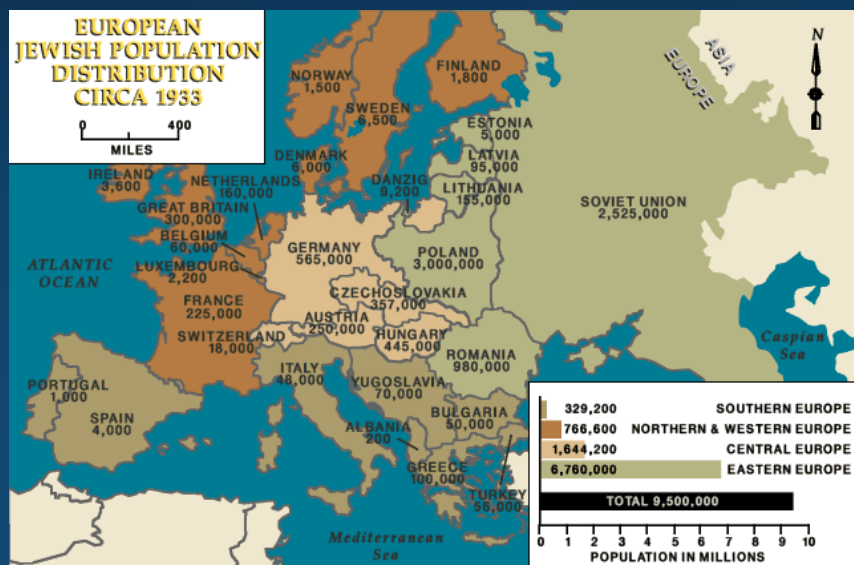


Did All Jewish Prisoners Get A Tattoo In Every Camp?

Not all Jews in the camps were given a tattoo, especially those designated for extermination, and not all camps made use of tattoos for prisoner identification.



Were There 11 Million Victims Of The Holocaust?



The number 11 million is a fictitious number. It is best when referencing the total number of victims of the Holocaust to say 6 million Jews and millions of others.